



POINT THREE

The monthly magazine of Toc H

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April 1973

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Toc H members accept a four-fold commitment:

- 1 To build friendships across the barriers that divide man from man
- 2 To give personal service
- 3 To find their own convictions while always being willing to listen to the views of others
- 4 To work for the building of that better world which has been called the Kingdom of God.

This magazine, which acts as a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world in which we live, takes its title from the third of these Four Points—to think fairly.

On the cover:

Ben Motswenyane, member of the Toc H staff in South Africa, and Willie Dube, treasurer of Orlando branch (seated), distribute food parcels. This feeding scheme is a major new initiative by Toc H in Soweto, an African township near Johannesburg. More pictures of Toc H at work in South Africa appear on pages 70 and 71.
Photo: Dan T Tlekettle

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Letters and articles are welcomed and should be addressed to the Toc H Editorial Office, 42 Crutched Friars, London EC3N 2AL (Tel: 01-709 0472). Opinions expressed are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement.

Advertising: Display and classified advertisements are included in this magazine. Full rates and data can be obtained from the editorial office.

VIEWPOINT

To give . . .

Some time ago now I happened to have an afternoon at home. My attempts to snooze over the newspaper were partially frustrated by the television programmes to which my children were glued, and one of the stories I was trying not to hear has stuck in my mind. I was listening with only one ear and I can't now recall the name of the author, or the name of the programme—I think it was probably 'Jackanory'.

Anyway the story was about a small girl who was told by her mother that she must give away one or two of her many toys to orphan children. Her first reaction was one of envy for any child who had no mother to nag her. But slowly, as she lay in bed that night, she began to think herself into an understanding of what it means to be an orphan. The picture of the orphan child became clearer and clearer in her mind, until she almost seemed to be physically present in the room with her. She knew then that she had to do something to help, and after a long struggle with herself she reluctantly decided that she must sacrifice her favourite toys. Nothing less would meet the case.

Her favourite toys, as any parents will appreciate, were two chewed and broken teddy bears. These battered objects had been her constant companions for many years. They were the things she loved most in all the world, and she determined to give them to her new imaginary friend, the orphan child. Her 'widow's mite' indeed.

She had made the most generous offering it was in her power to make. But the offer wasn't appreciated. Far from it. Her mother, and her mother's friend who came to collect the toys, were openly scornful. They had always regarded her as a selfish little girl, and this gift of her oldest, dirtiest, least valuable toys simply confirmed that opinion.

What nobody had told her was that the toys weren't going to an orphan child at all. They

were going to a jumble sale to raise money for orphan children. The little girl had plenty of toys which could have been sold at a good price and which she would have given away without a pang. But her child's literal mind had assumed that the phrase 'toys for an orphan child' meant what it said. She had chosen the things she liked most on the reasonable assumption that the orphan child would like them also. She had sacrificed the things that meant most to her and the only reaction was: 'We can't possibly charge more than 2p for those things!'

It was one thing to give her favourite toys to the orphan child she had conjured up so vividly in her imagination. It was quite another to let them be sold to a child she didn't know. The little girl was first in the queue when the doors opened for the sale. She bought back her battered teddy bears. And when she had them safely back in her bedroom, she whispered to her imaginary orphan friend: 'They're waiting here for you whenever you want them.'

A simple and moving story. And one worth pondering.

K P-B

Crossword

This month, for the first time, we print a crossword puzzle. We should welcome your comments on this innovation, which will guide us in deciding whether to badger Howard Hall into producing more.

The tip of India's iceberg

In March last year we published an article by Mike Giddings on his overland journey to Madras. We have now received this equally fascinating account of some of the things he has done and seen and learnt during his 18 months in India.



Many incidents of the last year crowd into my mind—the time in Bombay when I was mistaken for a Bishop's secretary; my appearance on the Indian newsreels; the sight of my first elephant; my meeting the State Governor; my four hours spent at night in a 'ladies only' compartment; my first radio broadcast; the death of my bicycle. . . . I remember the faces—though not always the names—of many people I have met all over India, the time I have spent in their homes, the humorous attempts at communication (eg in Mangalore I had learnt a few words of Konkani, and was trying to say 'You are my friend'. What I was actually saying was 'You are my pig'. Fortunately the people were very tolerant, but a little knowledge is a

dangerous thing). It is this constant broadening of my mind by such experiences that has kept me in India beyond the one year of my Rotary Foundation scholarship. At the end of the one year I felt as if I was seeing only the smallest tip of the iceberg that was India (actually 'iceberg' is not the best metaphor to use for a tropical country) and I wanted to see more.

During my time here—now nearly 18 months—I have been lucky to visit and meet many young people. I have not been perhaps the most regular of students at the University lectures (on such topics as the definition of an 'Indian village'), but, as I was supposed to be 'an ambassador of good will'—the main purpose of

the Rotary scholarship—I decided that I could fulfil this role outside the lecture hall, and also learn more about present conditions in India firsthand. In the past year I managed a visit to Kerala twice—where I saw my first working elephant—I was just like an excited schoolboy, rushing round with my camera, when I saw this elephant gathering sugar cane by the roadside. However it is a common sight in Kerala, and I was quite blasé about the whole incident after I had seen my third elephant. I have travelled extensively in Tamil Nadu (if you have an old atlas, it will be marked as Madras State). I spent a brief three weeks in Delhi (just at the time of the Indo-Pakistan war), and in February last year, I went over to Ceylon for a month. These travels may sound just like a holiday, but I also *did* do some work. Wherever I went I spoke at meetings, met students in colleges (they discovered arms and ammunition a week after my visit to Peradinya University in Ceylon; I hope they didn't think I was a CIA agent, and connect my visit with the arms!).

In my travels though, I haven't been the typical tourist rushing to see the sights. I'm not very interested in all the historical monuments (I can see beautiful pictures, and read all about them in UK) and find it much more fascinating to sit by the roadside of a busy street for several hours watching the people go by. For example, in Delhi, though I did see some of the sights—and take colour slides to prove I'd been—I spent much of the time wandering through the back

Left: Not a tug of war but a folk dance in Orissa.

Below: A street scene in Delhi.

Photos: Courtesy Indian High Commission



streets of Old Delhi. I prefer, too, to do my wandering alone, for it leaves me completely flexible. In Delhi one evening, I met a young Muslim lad when I was having coffee at the 'Indian Coffee House' in Connaught Circus; the place is always very crowded, for the food prices in Delhi are very high, but the coffee house somehow manages to keep its prices down. Although in his early 20's, he is running a small scale industry in a warehouse in South Delhi, making clothes for the 'hippy' market abroad. He was on his way to his native place 100 miles north to buy cloth. He suggested I come with him to see his village, and I readily accepted. One hour later found me with only my shoulder bag with my Delhi guide book inside, crammed in a passenger train heading north. A similar sort of situation occurred when I was in Mangalore. I met a student who immediately invited me to his home 18 miles away. It was an experience I am glad I did not miss, for it gave me an opportunity to spend a day and night in a simple village community—no electricity or running water. Toilet and shower are the fields. The rest of his family did not speak English, only Konkani, but the warmth and friendliness of that family will remain in my mind for a long time. This family could ill afford to offer hospitality and food to me, but without hesitation made me welcome.

There are other instances I could quote where I have made contact with people because I was alone. These meetings and experiences cannot be reproduced in a guide book—or a lecture hall. Now when I travel I carry my 'lungi'—an Indian sarong that is used for sleeping in—and a mat to sleep on. I have got used to sleeping on hard surfaces, and find a soft mattress uncomfortable. Recently I had a touch of fever, and spent one night in an air conditioned bedroom with a bouncy soft mattress. I woke up about midnight with a back ache, and so spent the rest of the night sleeping on the floor!

Since last April I have been helping a youth group with their publicity and training programmes. I had intended to go to a rural area after my year's study at the University to discover what an Indian village really was, and I approached this particular group who were helping with relief work in Orissa. Somehow, and to this day I am not sure how, I got talked



The food market in a Bengali village.

into attending their National Council, where people from all over the country would meet, and giving two talks on 'communication' and 'education'. One talk led to another, and I was invited to go to Mangalore to give talks, and so for the last 8 months I've been fully involved with this group. I have been editor—I help edit their national magazine. Being English, I am supposed to know perfect English. Also I am author, and lecturer. I have been helping to run training programmes for laymen, priests and sisters, working with youth, and also giving talks on various topics concerned with youth work. However, I am mainly known as an 'expert on communication'. I talk a great deal and wave my arms around, so perhaps that is why I have that reputation.

This group, called the Young Student Movement, is concerned with trying to get students of secondary school age to become 'aware' of the situations around them, and to realise their responsibility to bring about the changes needed in society. This has meant that I have had to work closely with students at school and parish level—it is a Catholic based group, but works with all groups to build a better India. Also I have had to attempt as deep an analysis as possible of the structures and problems of Indian society. As I said earlier, I'm only just discovering the tip of the iceberg, but it has given me valuable experience in working with groups of different languages, customs and religions, and given me an opportunity to share my experience of youth work with them—particularly my experience with camps. Each vacation we hold camps in various parts of the country, and I've been acting as a kind of 'adviser' about the

programme of the camp and its running. Camps have also taught me one thing—how to sing in public! At my first camp I was dragged into the middle during the entertainment session and asked to sing an English song. As you know, I can't sing, and the only song that came to my mind was 'I know an old lady who swallowed a fly'. I managed to get through it, adding various actions to imitate the animals she was supposed to have swallowed. It was much appreciated, and now I find that I am frequently asked to sing 'the wriggly song'—so called because of the line 'swallowed a spider that wriggled and wriggled inside her'. Once for variety I tried to switch to 'Old Macdonald had a farm', but by popular demand had to return to the old lady. Often I am mistaken for a priest, and now out of habit I answer to the title 'Father'. Once in a village outside Bombay I was visiting a group of students, and the priest I was with mischievously introduced me as the Bishop's secretary. One little girl, with extreme reverence, curtsied and kissed my hand. I quickly revealed my true identity before the rest of the groups could follow suit. Sometimes though, I am mistaken for a hippy—I often carry a shoulder bag and wear a 'curta', a type of N Indian shirt—but very rarely am I thought of as an Englishman. I don't wear a tie and suit, or carry an umbrella!

It has been fascinating work, but the time has come for me to leave. I should have liked to get more involved with the publications and publicity of the YSM, and I had some schemes in mind—but time does not permit. Either I leave now, or after 5 years. If I helped to start such projects, then I must stay until they have taken root—often projects from abroad are rushed, or rather are planned on the Western scale of timing, and when the 'experts' leave, the projects often collapse.

Now, why did he say that?

A psychologist is a man who, when a beautiful girl enters a room, watches everybody else.

From *The Link*, the magazine of Toc H Australia

TUBBY

Some of the many tributes which have been received.

From G Verstraete
Town Clerk of Poperinge

As a token of gratitude towards the memory of Dr Clayton, on Thursday evening our town council opened its monthly session with a special tribute to the Founder Padre of Toc H, also Freeman of our town.

After the address of Burgomaster Sansen, a minute of silence was observed and the members of the council signed a special mourning-register which will now be opened for the population in Talbot House.

I assume it will interest Toc H to know that Poperinge fully realises the loss of a great citizen and will never forget this noble man who spread his ideal for human understanding and fellowship throughout the world.

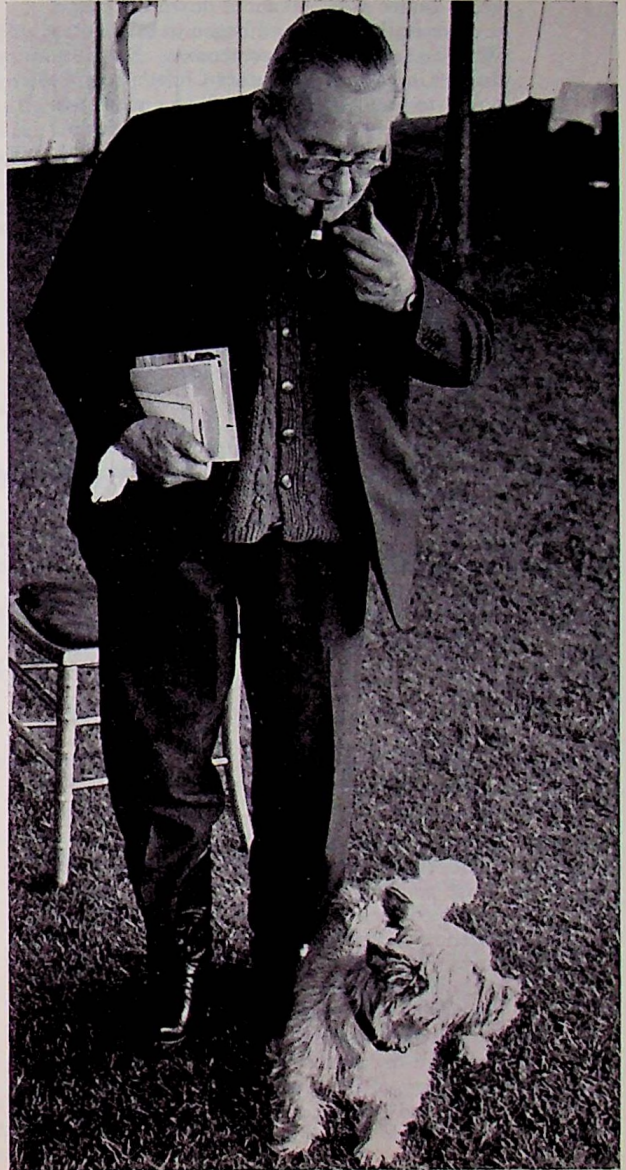
From Eric Tucker
Port Elizabeth, South Africa

We cannot be sad that so great a life, which brought so much good into the world, has ended—so blessedly, while sleeping—at a very worthy age. For thousands of us Tubby's passing is the end of an era, Toc H was already changing before he left us—some of this change I was told distressed him—and it will be interesting to watch the Movement's future course. Whatever betides, Tubby's great faith, affection for all men, imaginative conceptions and his gifted fun, all poured out on 'God's business' will remain an abiding inspiration.

From Ronnie Symons
a vice-president

There is little that I can add to the tributes which you must have been receiving from all over the world to Tubby's greatness, but you may like to know—if you do not already know—how he first came to Christ's Hospital. It was

Tubby and Chippy at a British Petroleum Company garden party. He was chaplain to the company for 40 years.
Photo: Courtesy BP Shield



one Sunday evening in, I suppose, 1922 or 1923. In the school chapel we were all settling down to our usual state of repose as the preacher began his address. We noticed, with some slight interest, that instead of going up into the pulpit he took his place on the chancel steps. But it was when that great booming voice began to grow louder as he advanced down the chapel that we really sat up and began to take notice. What he said, I cannot remember. But it lit a flame. It led me—and other Christ's Hospital boys—to join a Toc H branch; for me it was Cambridge. And that again led me to help form a branch in Agra in 1928, and to build up the New Delhi branch in 1942-1945, when we were hosts to many RAF types and others during the war. With many of these I am still in touch today.

There is, of course, nothing unique in this—thousands of others could tell similar stories. It does illustrate the fire which burned in one remarkable man—who never forgot a face and never failed to bring out the best in the men he met. It was rather sad that, as he aged, and as Toc H grew and changed from his vision of it, some of us should have found him unresponsive to what we, in changed times, were seeking to build in our turn. But of his greatness, his leadership and his love there can be no doubt. Few men in our time have been given to influence by their own personality so many others. We are grateful for his life and proud to have been numbered at one time among his friends.

From Terry Gray
chairman, Harpenden branch

On a bus in Finchley, casually reading the *Evening Standard* and pondering how bad Manchester United really were I turned to the centre pages of the paper. Suddenly I was transfixed by a small photograph followed by a dozen or more lines of reading. Tubby had died. For nearly ten minutes I read it again and again, stunned and saddened, almost unable to believe it. The greatest man it had ever been my privilege to meet was gone. My mind turned to my recent conversations with him in Poperinge, of the time and patience he devoted to me, and I felt proud that I had been there for his last Holy Communion Service in the Upper Room.

When President Kennedy was assassinated I remember I really wept, for I felt that if ever a man lived who could have changed the world for the better it was he. But I felt no desire or need to weep for Tubby, I was sad beyond description but I also felt very happy for him. For if ever a man lived to see his hopes and dreams come true it was him. We remain to carry forward those hopes and dreams and the reality that they have brought. We can turn his passing from a time of sadness to a stepping stone for the future. I point these comments particularly to Harpenden and to our friends in the South East Herts District with whom we hope to work more closely during the coming year. By the time you read this much more will have been written and said by people far more qualified so to do than I. Already the obituary columns are telling of the death of 'the founder of the servicemen's welfare organisation', only we from within the Movement realise how inadequate those words really are. Only we know what Toc H really is. Tubby is now at peace with those who lie in Flanders Fields; let everyone of us give thanks for his life and for what he has given to us.

From Lilian Dove
Woodthorpe, Nottingham

He lit the torch which founded our great Movement. Be ours to hold it high now that he has passed into the Higher Presence of the Master he served so faithfully and so well.

We must work even harder to ensure that the flame does not flicker in a world that is again weary of violence and strife as it was in 1920.

Already many of us help to the limit of much-stretched resources in many ways. But how can we help further? Are there any pressing needs that call for our urgent attention?

The world today is full of problems as it always has been and probably always will be. The troubles of the world are often so vast and so far removed from us that we feel powerless to help. So we concentrate on our own family and friends and live on our own cabbage patch—and hope for the best. We rather glibly call it 'minding our own business'.

Not until something tragic happens are we shaken out of our complacency. The trouble seems to be, not that there is so much evil in the world, but rather that there are so many

good-living people who are sitting back and doing nothing about it.

This attitude has been brought to the fore recently by the number of lonely people who have been found dead in tragic circumstances. Even in these times of social security, one poor old soul had died from eating cardboard and another was found eating lard. It makes one's heart ache, doesn't it? I know that talk is easy but where, oh where, were their neighbours and friends?

Programmes on TV and Radio about community life are very popular. I am not decrying the Archers or Coronation Street, which we all love, but they are no substitute for the real neighbourliness which we should find in trouble or in joy. Maybe it is easier to have a neighbourly life which you can switch on or off at will but it is not very rewarding, is it? And if you should be in trouble, it is no use looking to Doris Archer for help, for she doesn't really exist.

Are we, as Toc H members, being good neighbours to those we know as well as to those we don't know? How can we help even more than we already do, in this appalling problem of old age and its difficulties?

Maybe this is one way in which we can hold high the torch that our beloved Founder Padre lit. Perhaps this is another way in which we can let our light shine abroad in a much troubled world that seems bent on selfish greed to the exclusion of all else.

From John Morgan
a member of the Central Executive

An era came quietly to an end in the early hours of Saturday December 16, 1972. He who had become a legend in his own lifetime, who had walked with dustmen and kings and who had lit the flame of hope for so many, was no more. He was unique among his contemporaries and we shall never see his like again.

To a great many members, especially those of long standing, Tubby's death will leave a void but any suggestion of the Movement trying to find another such visionary would not only be absurd but doomed to failure. I have heard it said on many occasions that Toc H would die with Tubby, in my opinion to even entertain such a thought is to besmirch the memory of a great man. 'The king is dead—long live the

king' is a phrase which has no place in our Movement, for he has made us all his heirs. Apparent, the inheritors of a legacy of inestimable value which we must never squander.

It is not without significance that one of Tubby's last public acts was to endorse *Strategy for the Seventies*, proving that despite old age and infirmity he still retained the vision of earlier days. Perhaps it was divine providence that he was spared to see such a document produced.

This is therefore not the time to look backwards; on the contrary our task is quite clear; it is to go forward in the spirit of the Four Points, so that, as the final words of *Strategy* say, we might make some contribution to that better world which has been called the Kingdom of God. Only in that way will we achieve a permanent and fitting memorial to a unique life's work.

Welcome Point

The following branches elected new members during February:

8—Sutton on Sea (m).

5—Uxbridge (m).

3—Burraton (w), Scottish Area.

2—Central, Fair Oak (j), Ilminster (m), Moseley (j), Pocklington Court (j), Worthing (m).

1—Ashby de la Zouch (m), Charmouth (j), Coningsby (m), Cromer (w), Downend (m), Downend (w), East Sheppey (w), Felixstowe (w), Fulney (w), Glenrothes (j), Harpenden (w), Hoddesdon (m), Kidderminster (m), Kingston on Thames (m), Loughton (m), Milford on Sea (j), Milton & Eastney (m), Okehampton (w), Rochdale (m), Rushden (m), Selkirk (m), Sevenoaks (w), Sittingbourne (m), Tillicoultry (m), Wem (j), Whetstone & Finchley (m).

We extend a warm welcome to the 57 new members.

PRACTICALLY, A BRANCH

4. Kindred bodies

George Lee

'Are they not something like Rotary, except that they are Christian?' This was the surprising response made to a colleague once, also a Rotarian, when he asked a stranger if he had ever heard of Toc H.

Of course we all roared with laughter when he recounted the story to us, and no doubt we all thought it was 'one up on Rotary'—in reality it was one down against Toc H, for so often our attitude toward our friends in kindred bodies is inclined to be 'holier than thou', or even somewhat condescending.

It is time we woke up to the fact that many organisations, in their infancy when Toc H was born, or themselves born since, have, at times, a far greater claim to being a Movement than we have. Many of them have become extremely knowledgeable and highly efficient in their own particular or specialised sphere of human endeavour, and spend a vast amount of time, energy and money in answering a local or national need.

While few kindred bodies may, as we do, claim to be Christian-based, we are all working together and involved in the building of the same Kingdom, and we really ought to be ready to acclaim, applaud, support, encourage and truly recognise their tremendous efforts, and certainly in no way minimise, belittle or deride, or even jealously comment upon, their work simply because it doesn't happen to be our own special cup of tea.

In her 1972 Christmas Message to the Commonwealth, Her Majesty The Queen, our Patron, used words so familiar to us in Toc H when she said '... the things that we have in common are of greater importance than those things which tend to divide'. Too often we do not even consider the need, nay the necessity, to discover what in fact we have in common with so many other kindred bodies and organisations in our community. Study most branch programmes in your District and note how rarely the majority invite friends from kindred bodies to come and share news of their work, their hopes and their frustrations, with us.

The absence of padres generally throughout Toc H these days tends to accentuate a lack of real contact between Toc H and the Church. We go on 'knocking' the Church, repeating old biases and prejudices, without seeking to discover the role of the Church in the world today, the problems the Church is seeking to overcome, and in some places the sheer success story of a real witness. No, we tend to more or less disown the Church if one or the other of the local denominations fails to throw up a padre who can attend our branch meetings week in, week out.

If we are really concerned with the needs of our community then it follows that we ought to be seeking out, seeking to know more about, and seeking to co-operate more with, those kindred bodies whose objectives are identical to ours. Certainly if we believe in ourselves and believe also what Toc H is really about, then we shall have nothing to fear from our association in partnership with these kindred bodies. We have much to gain from them, much to share with them, and the whole community will be that much the richer.

I seem to remember being told many many years ago, and I still believe it to be true today, that one of the prime functions of this Movement is that of providing a pool of voluntary manpower for other bodies who are prevented from fulfilling a task, or are prevented from launching a community project, because of insufficient manpower. We must always remember that we are a part of a community and never be apart from that community!

Without doubt, if we continually look inward upon ourselves, 'contemplating our own navel', we shall be well on the road to loneliness, despair and utter frustration. If we look outward, sharing with others, knowing and being known, there is real hope, opportunity and a tremendous sense of adventure in working alongside others in building a real caring community. Our role is indeed that of working in partnership with others ready to see the needs of others as their own, and never ever in isolation, or in contempt or jealousy of others. We have much to gain from others. We have

much to give to others. With such give and take the community grows and cares.

Some practical hints:

- 1 List ALL voluntary and statutory bodies in your community regardless of their purpose.
- 2 Pinpoint those whose role is similar to our own.
- 3 Delegate to individuals responsibility for making and maintaining regular contact with those kindred bodies.
- 4 Be informed—where objectives or purpose or method of work not known invite a speaker from that body to share their good news with you.
- 5 Be aware of the plans of kindred bodies: where advice and guidance called for, never hesitate; whether called for or not, offer your support when a real need is seen.
- 6 Ensure that your good news of work being done or events planned are made known somehow to all kindred bodies with whom you have a liaison.
- 7 Wherever possible maintain an active role, a participating role, with Council of Social Service, local Parish or Town or even City Council, Council of Churches, etc etc.
- 8 So far as you are able have contact with staff of local schools, youth groups, youth clubs, etc.
- 9 (The all important one they used to tell me in the Army!) Don't hide your light under a bushel . . . in all ways possible to you, know and be known!
- 10 Like the Boy Scout, be prepared—to learn of, learn from, and learn with others from kindred bodies. Co-operate, invite, encourage, share with them when you can. Never ever deride or be jealous of the efforts of others, but at all times let them see and know we are doing our best.
- 11 Soft pedal the differences we may discover, but make capital of the things we have in common.
- 12 Remember always that our intention is to increase the essence of caring in our community—the more participants the greater the chance of success.

Next Month . . . Stewardship.

Crossword

Compiled by Howard Hall
Kent Area Treasurer

Clues

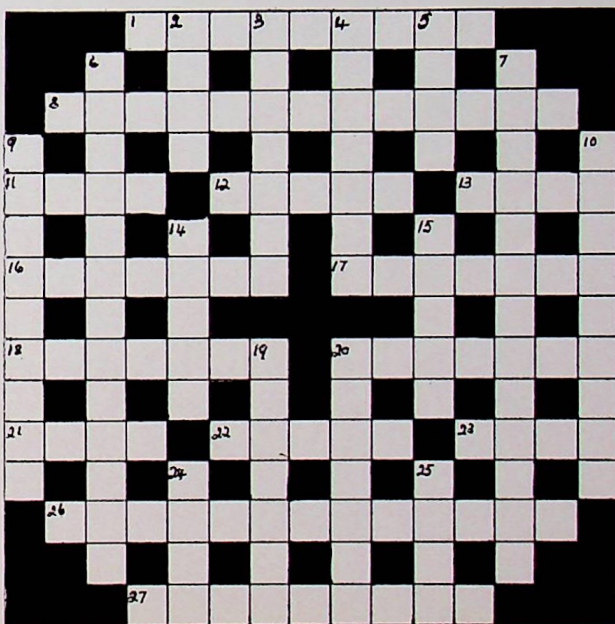
Across

- 1 Are all members sufficiently thus? (9)
- 8 Francis Street—Trinity Square — ? ? (8, 5)
- 11 Terrors beheaded for a corny answer (4)
- 12 One of sanctity we hope (5)
- 13 What you are looking at now (4)
- 16 Bargained with generosity (7)
- 17 Prepared a rough copy (7)
- 18 One way to get across difficulties (7)
- 20 Soft words in the bath (7)
- 21 Our Australian contemporary (4)
- 22 Padre's egg had good ones (5)
- 23 Staunch supporter (4)
- 26 Strategy for the Seventies? (8, 5)
- 27 Do Jobmasters need them? (9)

Down

- 2 Aims for chaotic studies (4)
- 3 Encroached upon (7)
- 4 Stuck for a place to play (7)
- 5 Garbled ponder from Australia (4)
- 6 Jack Harrison—Keith Rea — ? ? (6, 7)
- 7 Our new salary scale should avoid this (8, 5)
- 9 Last 1970, next 1975 (9)
- 10 Swingers (9)
- 14 Can people like this be ? ? (5)
- 15 Pertaining to the sea (5)
- 19 Crawled (7)
- 20 Weariness (7)
- 24 Viva voce or a pound (4)
- 25 Twisted nuts bewilder (4)

Solution next month.



At work in South Africa



Funds for the many new activities undertaken by Toc H in the past few months are raised through Gift Shops, four of which have been launched already. *Left:* Alf Coates, President of Toc H South Africa, welcomes the Mayor and Mayoress of Johannesburg at the opening of the Gift Shop there. *Below left:* Also present was Ben Motswenyane (*right*) the new African member of staff. Ben has been involved with the Orlando branch since its formation 10 years ago. He is a qualified teacher and holds a diploma in social science. Photos: Dan T Tlekettle

Below: The major project undertaken by Orlando branch in Soweto, the African township near Johannesburg, is a feeding scheme to combat the very real problem of malnutrition among Africans, particularly the elderly. By buying food wholesale and by raising money to subsidise food parcels further, the branch is able to supply more than 100 needy families at prices they can afford. Several other branches are now making plans to follow Orlando's lead.

The recently formed women's group in Soweto (the first African Toc H women's group) runs a club for children. Dancing is one of the main activities of the club and some of the club's members entertained at a children's party organised by Orlando branch.



Letters

Strategy for the Seventies

I had begun to think that Toc H of the future would be mainly a wealthy organisation sponsoring and making grants to a variety of very worthwhile and unconventional voluntary jobs to the community, encouraging the spirit of voluntary service among the young as part of its purpose. This sort of Toc H I could accept, and respect enormously, but I couldn't 'love' it (forgive the use of this tarnished four-letter word, but you know what I mean) any more than I could 'love' the National Council of Social Service or 'Help the Aged'; so what to pray for? The answer now seems quite clear to me since digesting carefully our branch's copy of *Strategy for the Seventies*. I don't know who was responsible for it but if I may say so it strikes me as a terribly well-thought-out document revealing an encouraging determination to fuse as it were, the soul of a movement with the ad hoc vitality of a mobile task force. I think it's grand, and I hope that the task of translating it into practice during the next decade will not prove to be too disheartening. I suppose this is where the Bordon Company's prayer-power should help?

Geoff Martin *London N21*

The corridor

George Jager shows a curious lack of understanding and humour in his letter last month.

My article attempted to portray the fallibility of an un-uniformed civilian when confronted with a pantomime of politics and regulations. I did not suggest that my reactions to events were right, just human.

However George can be assured that, even if I think the East German government oppressive,

I will not address their representatives as 'crass uncivil clots'. We must all look forward to the day when that government unmans the Goontowers, dismantles the Wall and wire, and allows us to welcome Eastern friends. In the meantime in the West I suggest that to poke gentle fun is probably better than naivety and abuse.

Keith Rea *Commissioner, BAOR*

Project Pianola

Spouse you will be suprised to get a litter from a mouse from wot I hav red in Point free—members don't even send any—specaly secretaries.

Its like this: me and my misses (who's a shrew) lived in an old Pianola in a Toch room and from wot we herd—these blokes was goin to sell our ome, cos they was bad off. We moved our ome into sum jumbul wot stays in the room from one year to the next.

Monday cums, and shore enuf; the usual noisy gang turn up amid remarks about sum T advert and the like ness of sum blokes. Our ome is soon on its way—but not 4 long—cus it gets fast in the door. Brite spark has new idea the instrume nt turns on its end—and out falls our old nest.

This happens lot of tims—they was hat it from 19 to 22 by metric-mouse. Fokes cum in wot was passing by and make elpful sugestns. Members also made sugestns to fokes—not such elpful ones. P ract icle bod starts to take off door and finishes up wiv the entrance in bits and instrument in bits. Gene-e-us measures—does rapid sums and still it finishes up ware it started.

From wot they say—they av gived up—cus the room (or our hole) as we call it; was built round the . . . thing. W've now moved back—and this litter is just to tell them blokes at Bingham to leave well alon.

Scuse s'pelng.

This . . . typewriter snot werf putting in the Jumbul sale.

Sind, Tommy Mouse *Bingham*

Toc H homes for the old

The letter from a member of Cheltenham branch in February is on very much the same lines as those that Hayle women's branch discussed and decided to put forward. We thought that some of the money from the sale of 15 Trinity Square might be put towards homes for elderly and needy members of Toc H and where possible include non members as well. We too thought that they could be run on similar lines to the Abbeyfield Homes, but with a Toc H warden and housekeeper.

It would be interesting to know if other branches have had the same idea.

Olive Kemp *Hayle, Cornwall*

Operation waste paper

This item in January prompts me to give a few points which may be useful to other branches contemplating raising funds by the collection of waste paper.

Our small country branch of Northiam has raised around £300 during the last six years. Prices have varied from £2 to £4 a ton for newspapers and magazines; less for waste or cardboard. We collect two loads a year. We started by collecting a ton a month, but have now reached 15 tons a year. For our last two loads we got £70. The ideal store should be large and weatherproof. Members with cars collect from regular points—houses, hotels, etc—once a month. The paper is sorted—paper from magazines, and tied into bundles; this takes two evenings. We get plenty of baling cord from a farmer. Our merchant makes a special journey of about 24 miles on an evening when we can help with the loading.

Although I sometimes feel we've reduced Toc H to a salvage outfit, without this income we could not carry out our commitments—to the Family Purse, senior citizens' party, etc—and that sort of money could never be raised so painlessly each year in a village.

R J Barnes *Northiam*

NEWSPOINT

NATIONAL CONFERENCE RE-AFFIRMS VALUE OF MARKS

A weekend Conference held in London in February, attended by 62 delegates representing Management Committee and Marksmen from every Mark in the country except Leicester, affirmed that Marks 'can provide a unique opportunity for living in the spirit of Toc H'. The report of the Conference, containing some 50 recommendations, is currently being considered by the Central Executive and its sub-committees.

The Conference stressed the need for 'maximum co-operation between Marks and other arms of Toc H'. It recommends that 'a member of the local branch should serve on the Mark Management Committee, as should the relevant Central Councillor'; and it adds that 'Marksmen should also be encouraged to participate in national projects'.

The Conference saw the prime contribution of the Mark as providing an opportunity for a mixture of people to live together. 'Community work is important and forms part of the family life of the

house,' says the report, 'but it must follow on and be derived from fellowship within the house, which is of primary importance.'

The Conference expressed no clear preference as between paid and voluntary wardens. 'It is unrealistic to expect the same results from the voluntary as distinct from a full time paid warden,' says the report. 'However this is largely a question of personality and personal capacity. ... The future tendency may rightly be to make paid appointments, either full or part time. Despite this, however, it is felt that the voluntary system should remain the ideal.'

The need for an improvement in the standard of accommodation offered was clearly understood and the Conference called for a detailed review of each Mark. 'If any Mark cannot meet the standards,' says the report, 'consideration should be given to re-location, alternative use or disposal.' The report calls for more single and double bedrooms and states firmly that

'"mixed" Marks should be acceptable'.

'Committees,' says the report, 'should draw up an annual budget for approval by the Central Executive.' The Conference was of the opinion that 'Marks overall should be self-supporting' but considered that subsidies 'would be justified if self-support would exclude desirable residents or if the subsidy would promote community work'.

The Conference called for the appointment of a Marks Commissioner, who would be 'a liaison officer between the Marks and the Central Executive Committee' and would advise wardens and Management Committees on catering and domestic issues.

In his introduction to the report Jim Blake, chairman of the Conference steering committee, stressed the value of the opportunity provided for 'informal discussion and personal contact'; and he expressed the hope that 'Executive action will be taken without undue delay'.

Fred Battin, chairman of Saltford joint branch in Somerset, presents a cheque to the chairman of the Keynsham Hospital Management Committee for the purchase of a bed. The money came from a legacy left to the branch by Mrs Marion Williams and the bed has been given in her memory. Members of the branch visit the hospital every Wednesday to wash up the dishes after the evening meal on the two wards for the elderly.

Photo: Sam Wilton for Keynsham Chronicle



Worldwide thanksgiving for Tubby's life

Accounts of thanksgiving services for the life of Tubby Clayton have flowed in from all parts of the world.

Eleven members from this country, including the Director, Sandy Giles, the General Secretary, Gilbert Francis, and Tubby's nephew, Tom Clayton, made a special journey to Poperinge to attend the Memorial Mass at St Bertin's Church. That a Mass should be said in a Roman Catholic Church, attended by a representative of the Bishop of the Diocese, for an Anglican priest is a symbol of the new unity of Christendom to which Tubby himself contributed so much. In a message to the Toc H representatives the Dean of Poperinge said: 'In a special way I want to greet you and to express my gratitude for your presence, that together we may give thanks to the Lord for the life, the work and the high ideals of your and our dear Father Clayton. Let us give thanks together that we are one in faith in Jesus Christ, one in hope and confidence, one in the same love which Father Clayton proclaimed and practised.'

The group found a simple card on the altar in the Upper Room at Talbot House: 'We give thanks for his loving kindness to us children of Poperinge during the First World War. We give thanks for his staunch friendship over the years. We give thanks for his life and tremendous achievements—Y de Rynek-Battheu. J Oreel-Battheu'.

Poperinge must clearly take pride of place. But we have also had news of services in Australia, in Victoria and in South Australia,

where the preacher was Bishop Tom Reed, a very old friend of Tubby's. In New Zealand there was a service at St John's Presbyterian Church in Wellington. From India comes news of services in Madras and Trivandrum. In New York the Winant Volunteers met at St James' Church on Madison Avenue. The service was conducted by Horace Donegan, former Bishop of New York and the address was given by his successor as Bishop, Paul Moore, who first met Tubby in 1947 when he was a theological student.

In Britain itself there have been far too many services for us to hope to be able to mention them all. Two examples must be allowed to stand for the rest. In Weymouth, Dorset, the service was held in the Methodist Church and among the many members and friends who attended was Mrs Barclay Baron. In her address Betty Cornick, Chairman of the Central Executive, described Tubby as a 'man with a vision, a man who dreamed dreams and made them come true'.

And from Norfolk Mrs J White writes: 'The rich music from the organ in Norwich Cathedral enveloped a congregation of members and friends of Toc H. They had come in cars and buses from all over the county. That so many came on a wet, wintry Sunday night to remember their founder and to give thanks for his life and work was in itself a tribute. Many of us have never met Tubby but his influence has reached us through the minds of men and women who, when committing themselves to Toc H, aspire to the Four Points of the Compass.'

VARSITY GROUP FLOURISHES

The Toc H group at Oxford University has grown enormously in size during the past few years. It now has between 70 and 80 regular members and a great many other students help out on an occasional basis. This growth is due, in part at least, to the increased social awareness of today's undergraduates. 'Girls in particular are very keen to do some form of social work in their spare time,' says Lyn Thomas, the group's secretary. Toc H is one of the main avenues through which Oxford students can give their time and energy in service to the community.

Members of the group help out at hospitals, youth clubs and rehabilitation centres. This year, in addition, many of the members have been visiting elderly people in the city, doing odd jobs, like shopping, gardening or decorating, for them, but primarily just to chat. 'I look forward to my weekly visits every bit as much as the people I visit do, probably more,' says Michael Cotton, this year's president of the group. Members meet together once a week for a soup and cheese lunch in Michael's rooms in Merton College.

The links between the Toc H Holiday Centre for children in Rhyl, North Wales, and HMS Rhyl, forged last year (see *Point Three*, August 1972) are being maintained. The ship came to Rhyl again in February and members of the crew helped to prepare the Centre for the coming season. And the ship's First Lieutenant handed Tom Griffiths, secretary of Rhyl branch, a cheque for £150, subscribed by the ship's company. Looking on is the camp secretary, Geoff Williams.

Photo: Rhyl Journal



Dor Knap Open Day

Spring Bank Holiday Monday, May 28, will as usual be Open Day at Dor Knap. Bring a picnic and enjoy the glory of the Cotswold countryside. There will be a display of

Morris Dancing during the afternoon, and an opportunity to meet a great many fellow members and their families.

'RUN FOR IT'

Philip Liner

There has been mention in these columns before of the Toc H Amateur Athletic Club in Christchurch, New Zealand, but we've never before had a report of the Toc H Young People's Athletic Club. Several nights a week a couple of hundred youngsters train on a local park and the outcome of their efforts throughout 1972 came to the fore when the Club, with the sponsorship and co-operation of the Canterbury Master Builders Association, hosted the South Island Mini Olympics. From all over the South Island they came—500 young athletes, ages ranging from 8 to 13, and what enthusiasm! They ran and jumped and leaped and threw as if their lives depended on it. At least the honour of their own particular club did. And that takes some organising—500 children, plus mums and dads and chaperones and coaches and trainers, all to be billeted and fed over the two-day meeting. The 'gate' on the Saturday, day 2, was over 2,000, and we were told by Clive Wishart, Club President, that those 500 athletes taking part were equal in numbers to those expected to take part in the 1974 Commonwealth Games, also to be held in New Zealand's Garden City.

The official opening ceremony had an Olympic air about it. There were speeches by the President, by the Club Patron Bert Walker, MP, and by Philip Liner on behalf of Toc H Dominion Executive. As the speeches ended there were released, to the sound of a loud 'Ooooooh' from the crowd, 200 pigeons, wheeling around the ground before flying home to their roosts in various parts of Christchurch. And the race prize winners stood to receive their medals on an Olympic 1-2-3 dais. Their medals were bronze, silver and gold, and you should have seen the chests swelling with pride as the ribbons were looped around the winners' necks. In true Toc H spirit there were no

hard feelings at not winning one's particular event, but I must admit it was good to see the yellow and blue vests of the Toc H Club appearing quite frequently on the dais.

When the time came to close the two-day event, there was a short speech from Ron Scott, Chairman of the Commonwealth Games Organising Committee, to whom there had been a presentation by the Toc H Young People's Athletic Club of a cheque for \$150 (£75) towards the Games funds. Mr Scott had some complimentary things to say about the organisation of the Toc H event, and emphasised how highly the name of Toc H is regarded in New Zealand athletics.

Hospital broadcasting in Manchester is 21 years old. Among those who attended the celebration of this event was Tommy Docherty (fourth from right), manager of Manchester United. Cutting the cake is Joe Cox, chairman of the Manchester and Salford Hospital Commentaries Association and Dick Roberts, the Association's secretary, is on Mr Docherty's left. The Association broadcasts regular commentaries from the Manchester United and Manchester City grounds, cricket commentaries from Old Trafford during the summer and record request and other musical programmes. The programmes are relayed to a total of 33 hospitals and Dick Roberts reckons that something like 4 million people have tuned in to them over the 21 years.

Photo: Manchester Evening News



LESLIE LE MAITRE

K G Bloxham

News has come through that 'Lemon' died on February 1, at Tanga, Tanzania, at the early age of 69. For some years he had lived with his brother and shared in the management of his business.

So leaves us one of Toc H's gay troubadours. And another of Tubby's trophies, for it was in Alexandria where 'Lemon' was a rising insurance executive that he heard Tubby speak and faced the challenge, 'Come and see!'—as Austen Williams so wonderfully put it in St Paul's.

He joined the staff in the early 40's, and arrived in Australia some six months before I did. As we landed we knew he was there by that uproarious laugh! It was the beginning of a grand collegueship in Toc H adventures 'down under'. In much he was like St Peter; his faith fluctuated. At one moment the vision; the next he was obtuse and unbelieving. But all through he longed to be better and wiser and it was this which drew men in. Toc H here and in Australia is so much the better for his life and work. His life's motto, if he had one, was that word from St Augustine, 'Love God—and do what you like'. As the years went by 'Lemon's' wishes became more and more God's will; of that I have good evidence.

Cotswold Festival plans

The 1971 Cotswold Festival proved a thoroughly enjoyable day out at Dor Knap for the many hundreds of members and friends who came. The plans for this year's Festival, to be held at Dor Knap on September 1 and 2, look even more exciting. On the Saturday afternoon there will be musical contributions from the Blockley Brass Band and the New Anglian Singers and a demonstration of Scottish country dancing by a group from Gloucester. On the Sunday afternoon the Lythwood Players will be giving a concert and there will be an hour of folk music by the Gleaners, from Evesham, and the Velvet Mist. Something to suit all musical tastes, in fact. On the Saturday evening the Moseley and District Drama Group will be returning to Dor Knap to give a performance of 'Anthony and Cleopatra'.

In addition to the main performances in the amphitheatre there will be a model making demonstration by expert craftsman Frank Barnes, and Mrs Jessica Rowley (wife of Cyril, a former member of the Central Executive from Chippenham) will demonstrate spinning and weaving. Poetry will also be included in the programme for the first time, with short readings in the conference room each afternoon.

Full details of programme and prices will be announced on the back cover in June, but make a note of the date now—September 1 and 2.

New group

Do you make a point of taking non-members with you when you go on a Dor Knap weekend? A report from *Point Three's* correspondent in South Yorkshire, Alice Hobson, suggests that it would be well worth trying. She tells us that a new joint group has been formed in Doncaster largely as a result of some of the members of the new group being invited to take part in two Dor Knap weekends. Central Executive member Harry Brier was guest speaker at the meeting at which the Doncaster group accepted a Rushlight.

In brief...

Pat Rice has left the South Eastern Regional projects office in order to return to teaching. Malcolm Wroe is temporarily working in the office part time.

Alison House invites mid week bookings—Monday to Thursday—from parties of Toc H members and Builders. Minimum size of party 12, maximum 30. Charge, £4.75 per head. Bookings to Joyce Green, Toc H Administrative Headquarters, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT.

Bournemouth branch has taken delivery of its fourth Chairmobile, reports Wessex District press officer Reg Collins. 'This chair is being used for short term loans to enable people to see if the Chairmobile is the answer for their particular disability,' writes Reg. 'We have found that in some cases the chair is not suitable.'

Norman Chidley tells us that Loughton branch now has 40 requests for showings of the film on the flashing light emergency call scheme, mentioned in the footnote to his article on the scheme in our February issue.

Although aged 89 Mrs Robinson (Rob) of Luton branch makes delightful soft toys for a local children's hospital. She lives some distance from the branch room but, we are told, 'never misses a meeting'.

The home made cakes stall was the most popular section of the fayre organised by Hunstanton women's branch, in Norfolk, with assistance on the day from the new Wiggshall St Germans branch. £90 was raised.

Tom Haynes, of Hayling Island, a retired professional upholsterer, with the aid of two new members of his branch, has made 176 chair cushions for a local church.

The Saffron Walden branch 'send a message' service, which has been featured before in *Point Three*, has been extended. The branch sends tape recordings from elderly people living in the town to their relatives overseas. The service has been so well supported locally that the branch is now able to offer it to anyone with a relative overseas.

Members of the Hemel Hempstead Toc H blind club have developed their own special boards for playing bingo, using holes and studs to represent the numbers.

PICTUREPOINT

Toc H links with the Scout Movement were always very dear to Tubby's heart. These three pictures from different parts of the country show that the links are very much alive.

Right: Victory smiles from the Swindon Toc H Scout Troop, after winning the North Wiltshire Scout Association's spartan hike shield.

Photo: Wiltshire Newspapers, Swindon

Below right: Local Scouts helped Buckley, Flintshire, branch deliver 70 bags of firewood to elderly people last winter. With three of the Scouts in this picture is the branch's press secretary, David Anglesea.

Photo: Chester Chronicle

Far right: The Mayor of Newport, Monmouthshire, congratulates two members of the Newport East (Toc H) Guides, after presenting them with their Duke of Edinburgh Gold Awards.

Photo: South Wales Argus



NEW TIES FOR TOC H

Use of the symbol is now spreading all over the world, and there are numerous ingenious attempts by the membership to use this expertly designed visual identity. The Methods Committee has now approved a new design for members' ties: showing the symbol with its centre picked out in white, in an all over pattern. There is a choice of four background colours: maroon, black, dark blue and dark green.

The new tie will eventually replace the Lamp design, but these may still be purchased while stocks last. The popular club stripe tie will still be available, and is unaffected by the new pattern.

Supplies can be obtained from our usual stockists, C R Thompson Ltd, and also from the Publications Department at Toc H Administrative Headquarters. See inside back cover for details.

Three of the 40 children entertained by Rushden Royal women's branch, in Northamptonshire. The party was arranged at the request of Mr Cooke, a senior social worker with the Social Services Department, who spoke at the branch last autumn. 'According to reports received from Mr Cooke,' says branch member Ali Sheppard, 'the children very much

enjoyed themselves, and I must say so did all the helpers.' The link with the Social Services Department is being maintained. A project fund is being set up jointly with the men's branch in Wellingborough and, says Ali, 'some thought is being given to taking some of the local underprivileged children on a holiday'.

Photo: Northamptonshire Newspapers Ltd



An experiment in joint action

One of the recommendations of *Strategy for the Seventies* is 'that District Teams should form Development Groups to be concerned with the extension of the Movement in terms of membership and new work'. The Fairfield and Spring Parks Districts in south London set up a team of this kind in October 1971 and the story of this experiment is told here by John Trimmer, Chairman of Spring Parks District. District Teams considering how they should respond to this recommendation will find this honest assessment of value, whether or not they decide that the particular pattern adopted is appropriate to their own part of the country.

Tucked away in darkest suburbia, Fairfield and Spring Parks Districts are experimenting with a Joint Projects Committee. The Committee's task is to develop projects involving both Districts which are beyond the resources of either individually, which will create a more sparkling image of the Movement to the outside world, attract new members and volunteers, and help regenerate the enthusiasm and vision of the early days, in the context of the 1970's.

Why we embarked upon this enterprise is a long story but it may help others struggling with similar problems and ambitions if the story is told 'warts and all'.

It was, I think, late in 1970 that the Spring Parks District Executive decided that the cosy almost somnolent character of Toc H in this part of the world needed stirring up. Some branches were active and relatively strong but the overall impression was of a Movement on the decline, with little of its former zest, and falling membership. Steps were taken through a Projects Team to tap into the enormous amount of voluntary work which needed to be done in the general area through contact with the local committee co-ordinating voluntary services—leaning heavily on the experience and vigour of the staff (Nancy Griffiths). There was plenty to do but no more than a flicker of interest by the branches to do much about it. At much the same time, Fairfield District set up a Development Team to smarten up their performance. The Team, which included Nancy, held half a dozen meetings and produced a list of good projects, a lot of paper work, a few new members but no new activity!

Fortunately, Nancy was involved in both Districts, saw the difficulties we both faced and, using the excuse of a concert being dreamt up as a big attraction, suggested the two project teams met—'just to talk this over'.

Lo and behold at this meeting held in October 1971 it was found that Fairfield's experience was precisely the same as ours and that they too felt a change in direction was required. Almost spontaneously, it was decided to set up a Joint

Projects Committee and due to wisdom or idleness—whichever you prefer—the two District Executives did not fetter the Committee with lots of rules and restrictions, formal procedures and the like. The marching orders were simple—to explore the possibilities of setting up one or two projects which would involve branches and members from both Districts. The objective was to re-kindle enthusiasm, find some new expression for action, and bring our activities into the open as a means of gaining publicity and volunteers. If money was required then the Committee was told to arrange a joint fund raising scheme—anything short of robbing a bank!

And so to work. A chairman, a secretary, two or three genuine volunteers plus—and what a plus—Nancy formed the Committee. The outcome was a camp for children who would otherwise not have had a holiday, day outings for chronically handicapped children in the summer, a play scheme for the school holidays, and an international concert. These projects would cost several hundred pounds but as an act of faith the commitment to undertake the projects was adopted before the money raising project—a sponsored swim—took place.

The critical thing at this point was the extent to which branches would give active support in money and in effort. The two District Executives hammered away, at District Team meetings and during branch visits, the Project Committee circulated notices and the staff spent many long hours roping in young volunteers.

It was a long haul but in the end it worked—Toc H fashion. The sponsored swim involved a remarkably high proportion of members both to help and to swim. Families and volunteers turned up in scores and the result was well over £500. The camp, run by a member with modest support from the Districts, was a success and gained the assistance of two local authorities. It was, however, understaffed which proved a salutary lesson for the future. The outings were heavily dependent upon wives and volunteers but were fully subscribed. The international

concert, involving performers from about five countries, from Scotland to Ceylon, was a sell out bringing together a glorious galaxy of races which may form the nucleus for future action. The follow-up on this is planned in April. A repeat concert in aid of spastics plus some on-going jobs for the volunteers with the handicapped children.

It all sounds a howling success but what is hidden is the immense amount of work which alas fell on so few shoulders. Nevertheless, it was a start which brought a much needed reassessment of Toc H's potential by local authorities and voluntary organisations and a modest flow of volunteers, who, if followed up, may well stick with us and ultimately form a new expression of the Movement, to supplement the traditional branch.

Before turning to the future it may be of value to pause and weigh up the outcome of this first year.

In the first place, these projects and their reception within the community have stimulated the interest of many members, providing a topic of discussion within branches and with potential members. Secondly, the success of the projects was only possible by combining the efforts of the two Districts around a small band of real enthusiasts. Many felt that it might turn out to be a case of 'the blind leading the blind' but in practice there turned out to be strength in joint effort.

There were a number of other factors which are, I think, relevant to those who might wish to experiment themselves. There was a degree of common purpose within the 'leadership' of the two Districts which enabled the direction of joint action to be developed without friction. The projects selected had to be very carefully chosen because the dividing line between ambitious ideas which attract support and fire the imagination and ideas which outstrip the capacity of the members is very fine. Finally the availability of staff support was essential, to do the daytime leg work, to drive and cajole, to round up volunteers and to follow up afterwards: this might have been done by the members but I doubt our strength is sufficient to have done it effectively. Certainly great effort was made to ensure that all outside helpers received official thanks and a notice as to the outcome of their work but it was essential that volunteers were encouraged to meet again for social as well as work purposes; for this staff support was invaluable.

Turning to the future, there are many questions which must now be faced. To some extent fortuitously, the projects selected focused on the young. I am strongly in favour of concentrating effort in limited areas of activity, in order to have some noticeable impact on a problem, to gain local acknowledgement as a worthwhile

organisation, and to attract new people from all over the District by giving them a specific purpose for voluntary help. The composition of the Committee itself will play a major part in the future evolution of this experiment. The two Districts have up to now been lucky in those who serve on the Committee, particularly the Chairman and Secretary (Ernie Goodman and Peter Sutton) but a means must be found to build up new members both to spread the load and to give the existing members a rest. This is a big problem because there are few enough who want much commitment beyond branch life—which leads straight into the subject of branch involvement. A major effort on all fronts will be made in 1973 to seek direct participation by branches, by District Guest Nights and joint District meetings which gradually, it is hoped, will show that the guys (and 'dolls') down the road or on the other side of the District share the same problems and are also looking for ways of developing the ideas which we believe are good. It is also hoped to experiment with the idea of encouraging branches to re-examine their jobs and in one or two cases to commit a sizeable part of their effort for say two years to the full support of the Districts' projects.

A much wider issue concerns the Districts themselves. Having successfully achieved a joint approach to projects should we not consider having only one District? On the one hand such a move would free some outward looking members currently serving on the two District Executives. On the other hand, the idea of joint projects is a tender plant and the unstinting support of all the branches has yet to be achieved. In these circumstances I would hesitate to sever the fairly close personal links that the two Executives have built up with individual branches or to break this good line of communications without a lot of thought. Of course in other parts of the country the number of branches in each District may be much smaller than ours (about 9 in each) in which case the idea of uniting with neighbours may be more obviously a good move.

To close, I asked some of the members of the two Districts to give me their ideas as to what single point of advice they each would give to any contemplating an experiment of this type. Their replies stress four things:—

- 1 Select the Project Committee with great care, keep it small and try to have one member who is free in the daytime.
- 2 Deliberately seek to involve volunteers and follow up afterwards.
- 3 Make sure that a member of the staff is available to help at least for the first two or three years.
- 4 Act with courage and determination.

'Teach us... to practise thanksgiving'

Keith Beck

G K Chesterton wrote of St Francis of Assisi, 'He cared most for that kind of giving which is called thanksgiving'. We may think that it is strange to ask 'teach us to practise thanksgiving'; but it does appear as though thankfulness is one of the rarer virtues. If we could have a taped record of all our utterances in the course of one day, most of us would be horrified at the amount of complaining we do!

Have you ever noticed how few people say 'thank you', especially to those who work for them in some way? The Victorians had a rule that it was right to thank equals and betters, but not inferiors. Although 'all rank abandon' has penetrated much of our society, thanks in part to the influence of Toc H, there appears to be some sort of similar rule in operation. Many people who would not dream of failing to say 'thank you' to their doctor, bank manager, or even the parson, ignore politeness when travelling on a bus, shopping or having a meal in a restaurant—bus conductors, shop assistants, and waitresses are as often the objects of impoliteness as they are of thanks.

A Toc H campaign for saying—and meaning—'thank you' might not be at all a bad idea. Especially if we learn to mean what we say, and begin to appreciate the daily work and personal qualities of those people who make our ordered, comfortable routine of life possible. In some homes, wives and mothers are taken for granted—until they get the 'flu. Coal miners, dustmen, railwaymen, bus drivers and conductors, are taken for granted—until they go on strike.

However, thanksgiving isn't exhausted by such appreciation. Within Toc H we are surely called upon to practise thanksgiving for life itself and all the creative activity of God, both within our Family and in the wider world. To be thankful is to have

'A thankful heart,
That takes those gifts with joy'.

It involves a readiness to make experiments in new fields, to attempt to appreciate things we have never experienced at all. There was once a relative of mine who didn't like bananas—in fact he had never tasted one, but was sure he wouldn't like it if he did! Sometimes our attitude towards suggestions for a 'new look' in our branch programme is just like that—we have never had a music evening, a poetry evening, a talk on local history, a play reading, or even gone to the speedway; and we are sure we wouldn't like it if we did. So back to Jim's

slides of his holiday in Wigan, to the familiar talk on 'How I crossed the Alps with a canoe', and an enjoyable 'moan' about everyone and everything in Toc H!

We are not always ready to be thankful for the peculiar (in both senses of the word) abilities and talents of our fellow members. Most of us find it much easier to spot and complain about the faults of others, than to look for features to commend. Jesus always looked for the best, for something—however small—to commend and for which to be thankful. Nor are we always prepared to be thankful for those within Toc H whose ways and methods are different from our own. We boast about our 'mixture of men' (or bemoan the fact that it is lacking); yet a true cross-section of humanity is the last thing we really want; the strain would be too great for us to practise thanksgiving.

It is not within Toc H alone that we are to practise thanksgiving, but in the whole of life in the world. It is for all the life of that world (in which God is at work) that we are to learn to be thankful. If other people are either inspired or ashamed by what Toc H is doing, and begin to do the same jobs, it should be a cause for joy and thanksgiving, and not for complaint. We have no exclusive monopoly right to any form of service, either local or national: the acceptance, with thanksgiving, of the efforts of other voluntary bodies, can release us into new opportunities 'to leap with joy to any task for others'.

Obituary

We regret to announce the death of the following members:

In November: James Coutts (Aberdeen).

In December: Jack E Elliott (Western Area), Maude Hubert (Paris), Helena M Thom (Aberdeen), Mary Tomlinson (Chirk).

In January: Percy Ashton (Holyhead), Edmund J Harris (South Wales Area), William F Harris (St Austell), Ann Hart (Ramsgate), Arthur F Herring (Wolverton), Elizabeth J Hyde (Sherborne), Harry H Millson (Coningsby), Lucy Wood (Yeovil).

In February: Jean Brown (Edinburgh), Percy McGregor (North London Area), Kenneth B Reeves (RHHI, Putney), Horace C Steed (Hednesford), William E Thomas (Chirk).

We give thanks for their lives.

Small Advertisements

Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) by the first day of the month preceding publication. The charge is 3p a word (minimum 30p). *Point Three Magazine*, Toc H Headquarters, 42 Crutched Friars, London EC3N 2AL. Telephone 01-709 0472.



Mr Jules Lietaert. HOTEL JACOBS, Ballestraat 1, Bruges 8000. Telephone: (050)398 31/32.

BRUGES, BELGIUM. Hotel Jacobs (established 50 years) welcomes Toc H parties and individual visitors to this lovely old city within easy reach of other famous cities of art, and of the coast. Comfortable, modernised hotel. Quiet situation. Parking. English spoken. Strongly recommended. Bed and breakfast only.

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HOTEL LYBEER has been a centre for Toc H members since 1945. Charles, a Toc H Builder and well known to many members, welcomes parties and individuals. Charles Vanhove, Hotel Lybeer, Korte Vulderstraat 31, Bruges, Belgium.

Have you seen the great improvements recently made at **WARDEN MANOR**, including H & C in some bedrooms, new roof and new tennis court? Historic manor house (recorded history dating from 13th century), set in unspoilt country near sea edge. 1973 extended season June 30-September 15. Also open Easter (April 19-23) and Spring Bank Holiday (May 26-29). Excellent Toc H fellowship. Cost £10.75 to £12.75 weekly (children £8.50) plus VAT; includes full board, 4 meals daily. Tennis, table tennis, putting, etc and all entertainments at Manor are free. Bathing is possible at Warden Bay nearby. Conferences welcomed mid-March/mid-June and mid-September/mid-December. Write John Cole, Warden Manor, Eastchurch, Kent ME12 4HD.

GUERNSEY C I. Good homely fare in Toc H family. H & C in rooms, midweek bookings accepted. Terms BB & EM £11.55 per week. Mrs P Saunders, Petherton, Tertre Lane, Vale. Tel: 0481 44756.

WE CAN PRINT your branch programmes, or covers; small posters; invitation cards; extension leaflets; newsletters; reports; and many other things. **And save you money.** Write or phone: Elsie Turner, Toc H Print Room, Administrative HQ, Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP22 6BT (Tel: 3911).

BLACKPOOL CENTRAL. Guest House accommodation. Vacancies Easter onwards. Families welcome. For details write to Mrs Irons, 62 Palatine Road, Blackpool FY1 4BY.

CORFU VILLA HOLIDAY. A few places available for fortnight starting Tuesday, May 22. For details contact Miss Elizabeth Bacon, 16 Northbrook Road, Broadstone, Dorset.

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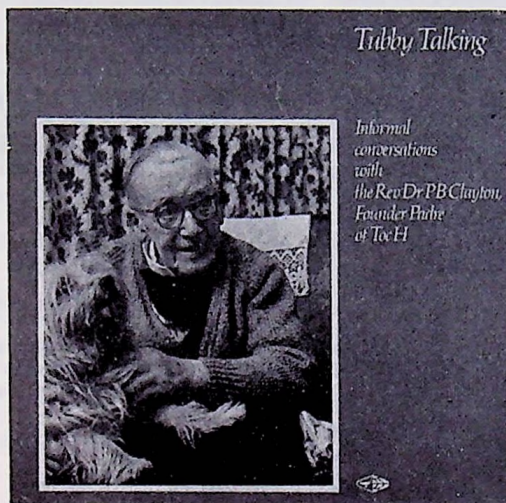
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